

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

September 8, 2006

Howard Rich  
73 Spring Street, Suite 408  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Howard:

I am writing to invite you to Montana to meet the folks whose lives you wish to change so drastically through your shady campaign. We would like to learn more about who you are, and about your motive to impose such a poisonous constitutional amendment on us. I would like to debate you in public about the merits of Constitutional Initiative 97 (CI-97).

We can have one debate in Manhattan, Montana and I'll even come to your hometown of Manhattan, New York for a second debate. I can assure you of two things, in Montana the steak is better and less expensive. You can meet some of the folks who will be affected by your efforts to unnecessarily meddle with our constitution, which you will soon realize is not for sale.

For many months, concerned citizens of Montana were stumped as to where the organizers for ballot issue CI-97, the so-called "spending cap", were getting their loads of money. Under Montana law, ballot groups must report their finances and give exact details about who their donors are. Yet despite being sued under public information laws, the CI-97 committee you fund refuses to come clean.

I know many people in this state and yet despite my best efforts I cannot find a single person who knows who you are, or can confirm that you have even visited our state. From what the newspapers say, you are a New York City real estate developer, multi-millionaire and you have no connection to Montana whatsoever.

It's odd that you would spend millions of dollars of your own money to amend other state's Constitutions. For one thing, your so-called "spending cap" is not necessary here and if you had read the Montana constitution (copy enclosed) you would know that. Montana's constitution already requires a balanced budget and in the last legislative session we not only cut taxes but are now planning to return money to Montana voters in the form of property tax relief. If you're worried about governmental overspending you should direct your efforts at Washington D.C., where Congress obviously has a spending problem.

You, Mr. Rich would be personally unaffected by this ballot measure if it were successful, while Montanans would have to live with the consequences. We already know what they are. In 1992, there was an almost identical ballot measure in Colorado. The campaign tricked voters into thinking that the measure would result in great prosperity. To the contrary, it resulted in the worst fiscal crisis in Colorado's history, with cuts in police and firefighter budgets that impacted public safety so drastically that the Republican governor had to lead an effort to suspend the initiative.

I look forward to the opportunity to show you around Montana where you will meet some of the nicest people, see some of the most beautiful country and have the opportunity to see the lives you wish to impact so dramatically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Schweitzer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
Governor